

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
March 8, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Diane Griffiths
Jerome Horton
Vicki Marti

COMMISSIONER ABSENT

Nancy McFadden

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Thomas Williams, Department of Finance

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Services

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Klobberdanz
Katie Knudson
Marilyn Nishikawa
Steve Soto
Becky Swol
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The March 8, 2007 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner.

II. Approval of Minutes

The February 22, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by welcoming Vanessa Baird from the Department of Health Services. Toby Douglas was unable to attend this meeting, and Ms. Baird was present as the Department representative. Ms. Baird is the Chief of the Medi-Cal Managed Care Division. Mr. Berger said that CMAC works with Ms. Baird and her staff on a regular basis on managed care contract issues, and thanked her for being at the meeting.

As a reminder for the public and those who receive CMAC's meeting minutes, Mr. Berger noted, the new 2007-08 fiscal year schedule of Commission meeting dates that was approved at the last meeting has been posted on CMAC's website and is always available at all CMAC meetings.

In regards to the hospital supplemental fund programs, Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that CMAC is making good progress. He said the negotiation process is continuing with some of the hospitals regarding Round 2B amounts. CMAC, he said, will have a number of amendments before the Commissioners for review and action at today's CMAC meeting with others to follow in future meetings.

Mr. Berger kept his comments brief because there was an extended set of agenda items for today's closed session. He noted that there were over 40 managed care and hospital amendments and contracts for the Commissioners' review and action, as well as several important negotiation updates and discussions of ongoing negotiation strategies.

Mr. Berger concluded his report by introducing and welcoming Mark Klobberdanz, CMAC's new Research Associate. He replaces Enid Barnes, who retired last year. Mr. Berger said that Mr. Klobberdanz previously worked for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and that CMAC is fortunate to have someone with such strong technical skills and a health care database background to the Commission.

IV. Department of Health Services (CDHS) Report

On behalf of Ex-Officio Commissioner, Toby Douglas, CDHS, Vanessa Baird updated CMAC on two important issues.

The first issue is regarding the status of the State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted by CDHS on a methodology for the reimbursement of physician services for hospitals being paid under the certified public expenditure cost-based system. Ms. Baird reported that after being changed to a cost-based system, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) held an internal meeting in Baltimore to discuss the State's proposed cost finding methodologies and will provide their comments to CDHS in the next couple of weeks.

Regarding the Health Care Coverage Initiative, a part of the hospital financing waiver, Ms. Baird said that CDHS received a few questions about their applicant selection and allocation process, which resulted in an extension of the application time line. She noted that

this had delayed the overall process about two weeks and that CDHS plans to make final awards to successful applicants later this month.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.